

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A packet switched network architecture comprising a location area, a radio access network, and at least two core networks having the same functionality, the location area being a common location area connected by a the radio access network to the at least two core networks ~~having the same functionality~~, wherein the radio access network is configured to switches packet transmissions from each terminal in the common location area to one of the at least two core networks, wherein the radio access network is configured to switches packet transmissions from each of the terminals to a respective one of the at least two core networks ~~in dependenceet on the capacity of the respective~~ core networks, and wherein each terminal distinguishes the core network to which it is switched ~~each of said core networks is distinguished by~~ receiving a location area identifier that includes including a core network identifier field and including the core network identifier in its packet transmissions.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The packet switched network of claim 1 in which each core network includes a mobile switching center (MSC), said mobile switching center comprising a visitor location register (VLR), the VLR being configured to ~~determineing the~~ capacity of the ~~respective~~ core network.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of allocating resources by a radio access network in a packet switched mobile network, comprising: allocating at least two core networks having the same functionality to a common location area; ~~wherein each of said core networks is distinguished by a location area identifier including a core network identifier field; associating each mobile user in the location area with one of the core networks;~~ and switching, by the radio access network, packet transmissions from a each mobile user terminal in the common location area to one of the core networks ~~in~~

dependent on the capacity of the core networks by associating each mobile user terminal in the common location area with a respective one of the core networks; wherein each mobile user terminal distinguishes the core network to which it is associated by receiving a location area identifier that includes a core network identifier field and including the core network identifier in its packet transmissions.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)